

Remarks

Claims 1-17, 25, 26, 36-41, and 45 were pending in the subject application. By way of this Amendment, claims 1, 7, 10-12, 38, 41 and 45 have been amended and new claims 46-78 have been added. Accordingly, claims 1-17, 25, 26, 36-41, and 45-78 are currently before the Examiner. Favorable consideration is requested.

Claims 1-17, 25, 26, 36-41 and 45 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Boskamp, U.S. Patent No. 5,594,337. Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate a limitation from claim 7 "wherein the region of interest is essentially within a cylinder created by the pair of coils." Claim 7 has been amended to remove this same limitation. Claim 1 has also been amended to move the limitation "wherein the first magnetic field and the second magnetic field are substantially parallel in the region of interest" so that the limitation follows the limitation "a single coil associated with a second magnetic field in the region of interest." The applicant asserts the Boskamp reference does not teach a coil configuration wherein the region of interest is essentially within a cylinder created by the pair of coils. Rather, the two regions of interest with respect to the Boskamp coil configuration is between one of the coils 36 of the coil pair and the inner coil 38 and between the other coil 36 of the coil pair and the inner coil 38. In particular, the inner coil 38 as divider 20 prevents such positioning.

Claim 38 has been amended to replace "a plurality of RF coils" with "at least five RF coils" and to add the limitation "wherein the at least five RF coils are coaxial." In contrast with claims 38, the Boskamp reference does not teach a RF coil configuration having at least five RF coils with bilateral symmetry, wherein the at least five RF coils are coaxial.

Claim 41 has been amended to replace "essentially parallel" with "substantially parallel" in order to use claim language consistent with claim 1, and to incorporate the limitation "wherein the region of interest is essentially within a cylinder created by the pair of coils."

Claim 45 has been amended to replace "a plurality of RF coils" with "at least five RF coils coaxially." In contrast with claim 45, the Boskamp reference does not teach RF coil configuration having at least five RF coils positioned coaxially.

Accordingly, the applicants assert the Boskamp reference does not teach each and every limitation of the subject invention as claimed in claims 1-17, 25, 26, 36-41, and 45. Therefore,

14

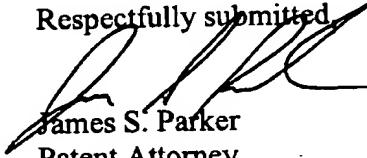
Docket No. MRI-100
Serial No. 09/522,808

the applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102(b).

The Assistant Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees under 37 CFR §§1.16 and 1.17 as required by this paper to Deposit Account 19-0065.

The applicant invites the Examiner to call the undersigned if clarification is needed on any of this response, or if the Examiner believes a telephonic interview would expedite the prosecution of the subject application to completion.

Respectfully submitted,



James S. Parker

Patent Attorney

Registration No. 40,119

Phone No.: 352-375-8100

Fax No.: 352-372-5800

Address: 2421 N.W. 41st Street, Suite A-1
Gainesville, FL 32606-6669

JSP/la

FAX RECEIVED

MAY 12 2003

TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2800